

REMARKS

An Office Action was mailed December 10, 2008. This response is timely. Any fee due with this paper, including any necessary extension fees, may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Summary

Claims 27-54 are pending at the time of examination.

The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 27-54 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,125,478 to Aloof in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,182,662 to O'Meara.

The comments made with regard to Aloof in the August 29 Response are hereby reincorporated by reference. Notwithstanding the below comments, it should be appreciated the O'Meara does not fill the gap to Aloof and that the combination of references does not teach, disclose, or suggest the claimed invention.

O'Meara claims priority to a provisional application filed August 18, 2004 and was first published February 23, 2006. The filing date of the present application is well prior to O'Meara.

The present application claims a priority date of November 23, 2003 as made in the preliminary amendment of February 9, 2006. As per 35 U.S.C. §120, the present application is a national stage application of an international application designating the U.S. and having a filing date November 23, 2003 and was published in English.

Thus, respectfully, O'Meara is inappropriately designated as prior art. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection.

All dependent claims are allowable for at least the same reasons as the independent claim from which they depend.

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for examination and ready passage to allowance, which is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for examination or allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

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Respectfully submitted,

/Hassan A. Shakir/
Hassan A. Shakir
Reg. No. 53,922
212.940.6489

CUSTOMER NUMBER 026304

Docket No.: 100788-00111 (SAIC 22.356)